

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2004/035879

International filing date (day/month/year)
28.10.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
31.10.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
C08J3075, C08J312, C08L101/14

Applicant
STOCKHAUSEN, INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Hallemeesch, A

Telephone No. +31 70 340-2431



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2004/035879

Box No.	Basis of the opinion
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- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

<input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)). |
| 2. | With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material:

<input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing

<input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material:

<input type="checkbox"/> in written format

<input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing:

<input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed.

<input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

<input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments: |

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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application,
- ☒ claims Nos. 1-18 all searched partly

because:

- ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
- ☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- ☒ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 1-18 all searched partly
- ☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:
 - the written form ☐ has not been furnished
 - ☐ does not comply with the standard
 - the computer readable form ☐ has not been furnished
 - ☐ does not comply with the standard
- ☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.
- ☐ See separate sheet for further details

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-19
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-19
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-19
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item III.

Incomplete search as mentioned in box II.1 of the international search report in view of unclarity (Art. 6 PCT) of the claims 1-5 and 11-15 because the Gel Bed Permeability parameters I and II do not seem to have been disclosed at the priority date of the present application.

Re Item V.

1). State of the art

The following documents are referred to in this communication :

D1 : US-5567744A

D2 : US-2003/065296A

D3 : US-5840321A

D4 : CA-2293864A

D1 discloses in example 6 fusing an ethylene-acrylic acid copolymer onto a water absorbent polyacrylate resin.

D2 describes compositions comprising SAP, thermoplastic polymers, water and inorganic compounds (claims 1-20).

D3 discloses hydrophilic, highly swellable hydrogels coated with a small amount of waxes, preferably polyolefin waxes (claims 1, 2, 4 and column 4, lines 38-40).

D4 is possibly the first published document mentioning Gel Bed Permeability values for superabsorbent material (claim 1 and table 5).

2). Art. 33(1) PCT

It is at present not well possible to formulate a written opinion on the questions of novelty and inventive step. Nevertheless, in view of the documents D1-D3, the subject-matter of at least claims 1, 6 and 11 is considered to lack novelty.

Re item VIII.

The dependence of claims 12-19 should be verified. They possibly are dependent from claim

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International application No.

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11 instead of from claims 8 or 10.